



LAKE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT

Lake Prosper

July - 2009

Leesburg Company Named a Top 100 *Best Companies to Work For* in Florida

FLORIDA'S
BEST COMPANIES
TO WORK FOR 2009

July 24, 2009 - RESTOR Telecom, Inc., the recipient of many Lake County business incentives over the past couple years, was one of 100 companies that were recognized in small, medium and large company categories. The rankings – the first statewide Best Companies list – appear in the August issue *Florida Trend* and on FloridaTrend.com.

The *Best Companies To Work For* in Florida program was created by *Florida Trend* and Best Companies Group and endorsed by the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals, the Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC), the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, the Florida Society of Association Executives (FSAE) and the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"Our goal is to recognize companies that strive to build even better workplaces for their employees, thereby strengthening their own as well as Florida's competitive advantage in the national and global arenas," says *Florida Trend* Publisher Bruce Faulmann.

To be considered for participation, companies or government entities had to employ at least 15 workers in Florida and be at least a year old.

"We've highlighted the practices of companies that have established themselves as great places to work — including everything from how they train their workers to how they communicate and the kind of pay and benefits they provide. This is a great opportunity for companies in Florida to learn from each other as they go about improving their own effectiveness," says Mark Howard, executive editor.

For a complete list of the 100 *Best Companies to Work For* in Florida, go to www.FloridaTrend.com/BestCompanies.

For more information about RESTOR Telecom, Inc. visit their website at www.RestorTelecom.com. RESTOR Telecom, Inc. is located at 917 Venture Ave, Leesburg, FL.



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UCF Business Incubation Program names James Spencer Site Manager at Lake County Business Incubator in Leesburg

ORLANDO, Fla., (July 31, 2009) - The University of Central Florida Business Incubation Program has appointed James Spencer site manager at the UCF/Lake County Business Incubator, located at 600 Market St. in Leesburg.

Dr. Tom O'Neal, executive director of the UCF Incubation Program, said Spencer has more than 20 years of experience working with small companies.

The effort at the UCF/Lake County Business Incubator is a joint venture or partnership that includes the University of Central Florida Business Incubation Program and UCF's Small Business Development Center (SBDC). That means there will be more resources and programs provided to Lake County entrepreneurs than would typically be available at most incubators or SBDC offices alone.

Thomas Keon, Dean of the University of Central Florida, College of Business Administration, said the UCF/Lake County Business Incubator could have a big impact on the local economy in Lake County.

"Business incubation and programs of the SBDC help entrepreneurs start and grow small business enterprises efficiently and effectively," Keon explained. "Development of small business enterprises is an efficient strategy to improve the local economy, and the benefits are widespread and long-lasting," Keon said.



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
BUSINESS INCUBATION PROGRAM

About the UCF Incubation Program:

Since its founding in 1999, the UCF Business Incubation Program has helped more than 100 emerging companies (including nearly 70 current clients) create over \$500 million in annual revenue and more than 900 new jobs with an average salary of \$59,000. With five facilities across the Greater Orlando community, the Incubation Program is a collaboration in economic development between the University of Central Florida, the City of Orlando, Orange County, Seminole County, the City of Winter Springs, and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council. For more information, please visit www.incubator.ucf.edu.



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Lake County one of 19 Cities and Counties Awarded Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Energy

July 24, 2009 - The Department of Energy delivered more than \$4 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support energy efficiency and conservation activities in 19 cities and counties across the country. These awards are the first ever under DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, which is providing funds for projects in local communities to help them improve their energy efficiency, reduce their energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and create green jobs locally. The funds awarded today will be used to assist communities in developing their plans and strategies for implementing the full awards. Lake County was awarded \$200,000, with a total allocation of \$2,807,500.

"With these Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, communities across the country will be able to make major investments in energy solutions that will strengthen America's economy and create jobs at the local level," said U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu. "The funding will be used to promote the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies we have - energy efficiency and conservation - which can be deployed immediately. The grants also empower local communities to make strategic investments to help meet the nation's long term clean energy and climate goals."

The funds distributed today represent a portion of what these communities will ultimately receive under the Recovery Act. Local governments will use this initial planning funding to support the development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy, which will detail how they plan to spend their funding on projects and programs that prioritize energy savings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create or retain jobs. Subsequent funding will be released once these communities have submitted their strategies to DOE.

Activities eligible for EECBG funding include energy audits and building retrofits in the residential and commercial sector, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Lake County's strategy for utilizing said funds, will focus on job creation as well as creating sustainable energy efficiencies within Lake County.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program



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Lake County EGR Gardening Tools

The Department of Economic Growth and Redevelopment not only helps business relocate to, or start up in, Lake County, it also strives to help existing business through Economic Gardening. Some examples of EGR gardening include:



On July 7, 2009 Lake County EGR, attended the 2009 bioOrlando strategic workshop. bioOrlando's mission is to serve as a catalyst for stimulating the life science and biotechnology industry in Central Florida. Its vision, to build Central Florida's prominence as a preferred destination for healthcare, life science, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, as well as their supporting industries. To that end, Lake County EGR's participation in the strategic workshop helps to insure that Lake County, its various life science companies, biotechnology companies, and agri-technology cluster, continue to be an active part of bioOrlando's mission and vision.



July 29, 2009 Lake County EGR attended a Biofuels Strategic Meeting titled "Moving Biofuels into Production in Florida." This meeting was hosted by: the Florida Biofuels Association, Inc. in association with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Office of Energy and Climate Change, and the Florida Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development. At the meeting, there was discussion and exploration of the opportunities and obstacles the State of Florida faces in infrastructure development of biofuels facilities. The goal of the Strategic Meeting was to develop a vision for the future, thus setting the stage for a successful road map to biofuels production.



Scheduled for the first part of August, the Lake County Economic Advisory Council's Industry Cluster Committee will be having an agritech cluster meeting with the leaders of agritech companies throughout the county. Additionally, scheduled for later in the month, industry leaders from the Health & Wellness industries will also be meeting together. The goal of these meetings is to develop avenues of communication that will help aid these business in the future by facilitating meaningful exchanges of experiences, insights, and pooling of resources to help foster stronger industry clusters.



Scheduled for Sep 22nd, Lake County EGR, in conjunction with the South Lake Chamber, will be hosting an Web 2.0 marketing seminar. At this seminar, some of the topics that will be covered include Search Engine Optimization, Pay Per Click advertising, Twitter, and Facebook. Cary Pierce, EGR's Business Development Coordinator, will explain how to utilize and customize different Web 2.0 tools for a more effective marketing campaign for your business. The location and time for this event will be posted on the South Lake Chamber website later next month.



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Lake County EGR Gardening Tools, cont.

HIGH VALUE JOB CREATION PROGRAM (HVJCP) - During the first Board of County Commissioners meeting of Aug, the BCC voted to approve HVJCP awards to Petrotech Southeast, Inc. and Surgery Centers of Mount Dora, LLC.

Petrotech Southeast, Inc. specializes in environmental services, used oil recycling, emergency spill response, and site remediation. The company anticipates creating 18 full time jobs that qualify for the HVJC Program award. They have purchased a business site and are investing \$500,000.00 in site improvements and equipment.

Surgery Center of Mount Dora, LLC - Omega I Partners, LLC is a healthcare multispecialty ambulatory surgery center. The company is a new business locating to Mount Dora, FL. The anticipate creating 16 full time jobs that qualify for the HVJC Program award. They are investing approximately \$1,500,000.00 in new equipment.

EGR regularly visits businesses throughout Lake County to have a better understanding of what types of business exist in the county and to determine if any of the support and/or services we provide can assist these businesses in their future growth. Listed below are some of the businesses EGR recently visited. If you know of any business that EGR should visit, please contact Cary Pierce at cpierce@lakecountyfl.gov or (352) 343-9867.



Uncle Matt's - Family owned. Florida grown. Uncle Matt's Organic, Inc. offers premium quality organic juices, fresh fruit and organic citrus gift baskets. Their produce and juice products have no synthetic additives or preservatives. Uncle Matt's is the oldest organic orange juice company in the U.S.



Cheeser's Palace - Cheeser's Palace was established in Ohio in the 1970's, and has been re-established in the rolling hills of South Lake County. The owners of Cheeser's Palace offer over 50 years of experience in the Food Industry including Restaurants, Gourmet Stores, and Catering. Cheeser's Palace has been a premier full service catering company known for an award winning team of professionals. Cheeser's Palace offers impeccable service, creative presentations, fresh and delicious cuisine. Whether your event is a gala affair, anniversary, party, birthday, tea, office event, Business After Hour even Lunch and Learn.



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